

What is claimed is:

1. An audio playback/recording apparatus comprising:
 an audio input processing section, which receives
 analog audio data, and converts said analog audio data to
 5 digital audio data;

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 a playback/recording processing section having a
 compression section which compresses said digital audio data
 output from said audio input processing section and stores
 said compressed digital audio data and attribution data
 10 indicating a type of a compression of said compressed digital
 audio data into a RAM, and an expansion section which
 decompresses compressed digital audio data stored in said RAM
 based on attribution data indicating a type of a compression
 of said compressed digital audio data stored in said RAM;

15 an audio output processing section, which receives
 decompressed digital audio data output from said
 playback/recording processing section, converts said
 decompressed digital audio data to analog audio data, and
 outputs said analog audio data to an output apparatus;

20 an external recording circuit section, which records
 compressed digital audio data stored in said RAM into an
 external recording medium, and reads out compressed digital
 audio data from said external recording medium, and stores
 said readout data into said RAM.

25 2. An audio playback/recording apparatus according to
 claim 1, further comprising a general-purpose interface
 circuit section, which transfers digital audio data and
 attribution data indicating a type of a compression of said
 compressed digital audio data to an external apparatus

See
 Fig 10

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connected thereto from said external recording medium, and receives digital audio data from said external apparatus and transfers digital audio data and attribution data indicating a type of a compression of said compressed digital audio data to said external recording medium.

3. An audio playback/recording apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a protection processing section for performing protection processing of said digital audio data.

4. An audio playback/recording apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said protection processing section comprising an encryption section which encrypts said digital audio data, a decryption section which decrypts encrypted digital audio data, an authorization data generation section, which generates authorization data sent to said external apparatus connected to said general-purpose interface circuit section, and an authorization data verification section, which verifies authorization data sent from said external apparatus connected to said general-purpose interface circuit section.

5. An audio playback/recording apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said protection processing section comprising an encryption section which encrypts digital audio data, a decryption section which decrypts encrypted digital audio data, an authorization data writing section which writes authorization data into digital audio data transferred to said external apparatus connected to said general-purpose interface circuit section, and an authorization data extraction section which extracts authorization data from

6. An audio playback/recording apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said authorization data writing section writes said authorization data within a header information section of said digital audio data.

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Year	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100
1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100	